

Dear Co-Chair James Maroney, Co-Chair Michael D'Agostino and Members of the General Law Committee,

I am a resident of Milford.

Six years ago I began volunteering with Haven's Harvest Food Recovery.

Pre-COVID I volunteered 5-10 hours per week.

During a year of early COVID when I was furloughed from my job, my volunteering increased to full time, 40 hours per week.

I currently volunteer 20-25 hours per week doing food recovery and 30 hours as a preschool teacher.

Three years ago I enlisted the support of multiple Milford groups such as Milford Speaks Out and Milford Pride and began a 77 member Milford chapter of Haven's Harvest.

During COVID I recruited 12 new food recovery volunteers from Milford, West Haven and Orange.

I am writing to support the spirit only of HB 5146.

For me and for my fellow Milford support the actual bill, however, it would need to include language that conveys the fact that Food Recovery organizations are equal partners with all the larger groups like CT FoodShare.

Both are doing critical work to keep food out of landfills and get it to people who might not be able to access the food they need.

HB 5146 also needs language that would allow for the creation of infrastructure.

Without this, we will not be able to achieve our goal of Zero Waste.

My food network shares the goals of addressing the following issues:

- School Food
- State Food Labeling Laws
- Food Waste audit
- Composting
- Surveys

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Sarah Aaron-Bromley

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